

To: Jenkins, Joy[Jenkins.Joy@epa.gov]
From: Mahmud, Shahid
Sent: Mon 8/10/2015 8:17:37 PM
Subject: Re: OSWER, R8 Action; Guardian; DDL COB; Aminos River Spill (Deadline: TODAY)

Joy,

You are correct and I pointed it out in yellow highlight below. I will point it out again.
Thanks!

Shahid Mahmud
Team Leader
EPA Abandoned Mine Lands Team
703-603-8789

From: Jenkins, Joy
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2015 4:04 PM
To: Mahmud, Shahid; Adams, Bill; Biggs, Kirby; Carr, Loften; Casanova, Rafael; Doolan, Mark; Gunter, Jason; Hanley, Jim; Hathaway, Ed; Hillenbrand, John; Hoogerheide, Roger; Jackson, Brad; Mahoney, Michael; Marcy, Ken; Moreen, Ed; Price, Lisa; Progress, Christina; Purcell, Mark; Riley, Gary; Root, Charlie; Sparks, Sara; Teichert, Candice; Tomten, Dave; Adams, Bill; Autrey, Brad; Aycock, Jim; Baumgarten, Gary; Bless, Diana; Butler, Barbara; Carr, Loften; Chadwick, Dan; Cherepy, Andrea; Conway, Bette; Cozza, Daniel; Cruz, Francisco; Desai, Sheila; Deschambault, Lynda; Devito, Steve; DiCosmo, Nefertiti; Dixon, Douglas; Doolan, Mark; Forren, John; Forrest, Sabrina; Geselbracht, Jeanne; Godsey, Cindi; Goodrick, John; Grandinetti, Cami; Hanley, Jim; Hardy, Michael; Hathaway, Ed; Hillenbrand, John; Hood, Lynne; Housman, Van; Hudiburgh, Gary; Jackson, Brad; Jessop, Carter; Byrne, Jim; Johnson, Brent; Long, Larry; Lavaty, Ann; Lazorchak, Jim; Lensink, Andy; Lesser, Ben; Ellis, Lisa; Low, Seth; Mahoney, Michele; Manoyan, Simon; Marcy, Ken; Mayer, Kevin; Miller, Anna; Egidi, Philip; Progress, Christina; Purcell, Mark; Riley, Gary; Root, Charlie; Roy, Stephen; Russell, Carol; Teichert, Candice; Teitelbaum, Daniel; Tiago, Joseph; Tomten, Dave; Watt, Jamey; Wilkening, Matt
Subject: RE: OSWER, R8 Action; Guardian; DDL COB; Aminos River Spill (Deadline: TODAY)

Shahid –

I don't know if others agree or not, but the reporter who had the initial inquiry seems to be mixing tailings dams and abandoned mine tunnels. The response below from EPA is not very clear on the distinction. From my perspective a tailings dam and an abandoned mine tunnel are very different situations, albeit both can release contaminated water.

If EPA was perceived to be excavating a tailings dam, that is quite a bit different than excavating to access a pool of AMD in an abandoned mine tunnel. But perhaps I am reading too much into the reporter's line of questioning?

- Joy

Joy Jenkins

Remedial Project Manager

EPA Region 8

Phone: 303-312-6873

Travel/remote work phone: 720-951-0793

From: Mahmud, Shahid

Sent: Monday, August 10, 2015 1:36 PM

To: Adams, Bill; Biggs, Kirby; Carr, Loftan; Casanova, Rafael; Doolan, Mark; Gunter, Jason; Hanley, Jim; Hathaway, Ed; Hillenbrand, John; Hoogerheide, Roger; Jackson, Brad; Jenkins, Joy; Mahmud, Shahid; Mahoney, Michael; Marcy, Ken; Moreen, Ed; Price, Lisa; Progeess, Christina; Purcell, Mark; Riley, Gary; Root, Charlie; Sparks, Sara; Teichert, Candice; Tomten, Dave; Adams, Bill; Autrey, Brad; Aycock, Jim; Baumgarten, Gary; Bless, Diana; Butler, Barbara; Carr, Loftan; Chadwick, Dan; Cherepy, Andrea; Conway, Bette; Cozza, Daniel; Cruz, Francisco; Desai, Sheila; Deschambault, Lynda; Devito, Steve; DiCosmo, Nefertiti; Dixon, Douglas; Doolan, Mark; Forren, John; Forrest, Sabrina; Geselbracht, Jeanne; Godsey, Cindi; Goodrick, John; Grandinetti, Cami; Hanley, Jim; Hardy, Michael; Hathaway, Ed; Hillenbrand, John; Hood, Lynne; Housman, Van; Hudiburgh, Gary; Jackson, Brad; Jenkins, Joy; Jessop, Carter; Byrne, Jim; Johnson, Brent; Long, Larry; Lavaty, Ann; Lazorchak, Jim; Lensink, Andy; Lesser, Ben; Ellis, Lisa; Low, Seth; Mahmud, Shahid; Mahoney, Michele; Manoyan, Simon; Marcy, Ken; Mayer, Kevin; Miller, Anna; Egidi, Philip; Progeess, Christina; Purcell, Mark; Riley, Gary; Root, Charlie; Roy, Stephen; Russell, Carol; Teichert, Candice; Teitelbaum, Daniel; Tiago, Joseph; Tomten, Dave; Watt, Jamey; Wilkening, Matt

Subject: Fw: OSWER, R8 Action; Guardian; DDL COB; Aminas River Spill (Deadline: TODAY)

Importance: High

This is FYI. Please see draft response that will be sent to the OSWER outreach office to forward to reporter. I am sure this is just a start on the inquiries we will be getting over the next few days/weeks. Thanks everyone for your help.

Shahid Mahmud

Team Leader
EPA Abandoned Mine Lands Team
703-603-8789

From: Dreyfus, Melissa G.
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2015 2:50 PM
To: Mahmud, Shahid; Wells, Suzanne
Cc: Gartner, Lois
Subject: RE: OSWER, R8 Action; Guardian; DDL COB; Aminos River Spill (Deadline: TODAY)

Is everyone ok for me to send this response to OSWER Comms and OPA with cc: to Jeremy Ames?

EPA routinely monitors hardrock mine sites that are listed on the National Priorities List (NPL). However, EPA does not maintain records of the number of mines or tailings dams in the US. Tailings Dam safety falls under the jurisdiction of State Dam Safety Agencies, and the Federal Land Management Agencies have jurisdiction for monitoring the sites on federal lands. EPA does not have an active mine discovery program, but responds to incidents that are brought to our attention. In August 1994, the EPA report entitled " Technical Report: Design and Evaluation of Tailings Dams" noted that "EPA estimates that there may be several thousand tailings impoundments associated with active non-coal mining, and tens of thousands of inactive or abandoned impoundments."

Melissa Greer Dreyfus

Environmental Health Scientist

Community Involvement and Program Initiatives Branch

Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Phone: 703-603-8792

email: dreyfus.melissa@epa.gov

From: Mahmud, Shahid
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2015 2:45 PM
To: Dreyfus, Melissa G.; Wells, Suzanne
Cc: Gartner, Lois
Subject: Re: OSWER, R8 Action; Guardian; DDL COB; Aminos River Spill (Deadline: TODAY)

Melissa,

You are correct in that EPA routinely monitors hardrock mine sites that are listed on the NPL. I am not sure to the extent of our involvement at non-NPL sites.

Shahid Mahmud
Team Leader
EPA Abandoned Mine Lands Team
703-603-8789

From: Dreyfus, Melissa G.
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2015 2:41 PM
To: Mahmud, Shahid; Wells, Suzanne
Cc: Gartner, Lois
Subject: RE: OSWER, R8 Action; Guardian; DDL COB; Aminos River Spill (Deadline: TODAY)

Thank you, Shahid!

Lois and Suzanne,

I haven't send an email to Jeremy in ORCR yet. Do you think that is still necessary? If not, I propose we send the following as our response and I can cc: Jeremy. Does the response go to just Nancy or to George and Julia too? Shahid, does this look ok to you? Do we want to say anything about EPA monitoring abandoned mines with regards to those listed on the NPL?

Thanks!

EPA does not maintain records of the number of mines or tailings dams in the US. Tailings Dam safety falls under the jurisdiction of State Dam Safety Agencies and the Federal Land Management Agencies have jurisdiction for monitoring the sites on federal lands. EPA does not have an active mine discovery program, but responds to incidents that are brought to our attention. In August 1994, the EPA report entitled " Technical Report: Design and Evaluation of Tailings Dams" noted that "EPA estimates that there may be several thousand tailings impoundments associated with active non-coal mining, and tens of thousands of inactive or abandoned impoundments."

Melissa Greer Dreyfus

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Phone: 703-603-8792

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From: Mahmud, Shahid

Sent: Monday, August 10, 2015 2:34 PM

To: Dreyfus, Melissa G.; Wells, Suzanne

Cc: Gartner, Lois

Subject: Re: OSWER, R8 Action; Guardian; DDL COB; Aminos River Spill (Deadline: TODAY)

Melissa,

The reporter seems to have his wires crossed as the incident in Region 8 had to do with mine workings blowing out from behind a plugged adit and not a tailings dam

blowout. As you know, EPA does not maintain records of the number of mines or tailings dams in the US. Tailings Dam safety falls under the jurisdiction of State Dam Safety Agencies and the Federal Land Management Agencies have to monitor the sites on federal lands. EPA does not have an active discovery program and we respond to incidents that are brought to our attention. In August 1994, EPA did a report entitled " Technical Report: Design and Evaluation of Tailings Dams" which noted that "EPA estimates that there may be several thousand tailings impoundments associated with active non-coal mining, and tens of thousands of inactive or abandoned impoundments." Hope this is helpful. Thanks!

From: Dreyfus, Melissa G.
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2015 12:52 PM
To: Wells, Suzanne
Cc: Gartner, Lois; Mahmud, Shahid
Subject: RE: OSWER, R8 Action; Guardian; DDL COB; Aminas River Spill (Deadline: TODAY)

Thanks, Suzanne. Shahid, if you don't know the answer to the questions regarding mines holding contaminated water, perhaps we can point to which agency holds this authority? The second question seems to pertain specifically to abandoned mines: **Are abandoned mines, like Gold King, monitored?** Would this response entail some wording on five year reviews?

Melissa Greer Dreyfus

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Community Involvement and Program Initiatives Branch

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From: Wells, Suzanne

Sent: Monday, August 10, 2015 12:45 PM
To: Dreyfus, Melissa G.
Cc: Gartner, Lois; Mahmud, Shahid
Subject: RE: OSWER, R8 Action; Guardian; DDL COB; Aminos River Spill (Deadline: TODAY)

Melissa,

I've cc:ed Shahid so he can see this inquiry. I don't know if Shahid knows the answer to this reporter's questions. There might be someone in RCRA or possibly one of the land management agencies who knows the answer.

Suzanne Wells

Chief, Community Involvement and Program Initiatives Branch

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(703) 603-8863

(703) 603-9112 (fax)

USEPA/William Jefferson Clinton Federal Building (MC 5204P)

1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20460



From: Dreyfus, Melissa G.
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2015 12:42 PM
To: Wells, Suzanne
Cc: Gartner, Lois
Subject: FW: OSWER, R8 Action; Guardian; DDL COB; Aminos River Spill (Deadline: TODAY)

Suzanne,

I forwarded this request to Shahid, but should it also go to OEM?

Melissa Greer Dreyfus

Environmental Health Scientist

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Phone: 703-603-8792

email: dreyfus.melissa@epa.gov

From: Cohen, Nancy

Sent: Monday, August 10, 2015 12:09 PM

To: Dreyfus, Melissa G.

Cc: Wells, Suzanne; Gartner, Lois

Subject: FW: OSWER, R8 Action; Guardian; DDL COB; Aminos River Spill (Deadline: TODAY)

Melissa: I want to follow the correct process on press inquiries related to the Aminos River spill but don't want to lose time either. So here's an inquiry we received from OPA. We may also get it via the EOC.

Thanks, nancy

Nancy Cohen

U.S. EPA OSWER

202.566.0171

From: Daguillard, Robert

Sent: Monday, August 10, 2015 11:31 AM

To: Smith, Paula; Faulk, Libby; McClain-Vanderpool, Lisa; Mylott, Richard; Cohen, Nancy

Subject: OSWER, R8 Action; Guardian; DDL COB; Aminos River Spill

All, I've sent this inquiry to Region 8 already, but it looks as though OSWER might want to take a look at the first two questions. Please let me know.

If we could get a response by COB Today, the reporter could run the story in tomorrow's paper. Please advise. Thanks, R.

From: Karl Mathiesen

Sent: Monday, August 10, 2015 7:45 AM

To: Daguillard, Robert

Subject: Guardian media enquiry

Hi Robert,

I'm a journalist with the Guardian writing a piece on the release from the Gold King Mine in Colorado.

I have a few questions on the background of the situation. Please do your best to answer them all.

On the general state of tailings dams and mines. How many such storage facilities are there across the country? How does the EPA monitor the maintenance and condition of mines and dams that are holding contaminated water? Are abandoned mines, like Gold King, monitored?

It has been reported that the EPA has been trying to designate the area as a superfund area for some time. When was the idea first floated? Why was it unsuccessful? Does the EPA believe the spill would have occurred regardless of the lack of superfund designation? Would that have changed the way the clean up was undertaken (ie would there have been more money available and therefore less likelihood of a failure?)?

Best,

Karl

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Karl Mathiesen

London